तथा गोदामों के निर्माण के लिए अति-रिक्त राज्य सहायता हेतु 250 करोड रुपये का प्रावधान किया गया है।

396. *[Transferred to the 8th May,* 1992]

397. *[Transferred to the 8th May,* 1992]

Different insttitutions for Standardisation

398. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for having different institutions for standardisation! such as Bureau of Indian Standards, Stan dardisation Testing, Quality Control cen tres;

(b) what efforts are proposed to be made to merge them together and streng then the existing laboratories under Bureau of Indian Standards; and

(c) what will be the estimated savings after such possible merger?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Besides BIS, other organi-sat-'ons also formulate standards under various Acts|Regulatiorss!Control Orders, etc.

(b) There is no proposal to merge these organisations.

(c) Question does not arise.

Performance of new Public Distribution System

399. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN:
SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that even the revamped and expanded public distribution system (PDS) has not brought much relief to the needy for reasons of afforda-bility, accessibility and stability of prices and supplies, according to expert studies as per the newsitem entitled "PDS fails to bring relief to poor" which appeared in the Times of India dated the 13th April, 1992; and

(b) if so, what specific remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) A news item under this title appeared in the Hindustan TJmes (not Times of India) dated 13th April, 1992 This report presents a view point attributed to "Expert Studies", without disclosing the actual source. While it is true that the issue prices of PDS foodgrains had to be increased in order to partiality absorb the increased cost of procurement, the end retail prices under the PDS even after the increase were considerably lower than the open market prices of foodgrains. This is the reason why there was an increased .demand from the States /UTs for wheat and rice to be distributed through the PDS. Under the Revamped PDS the State Governmnets have been requested, *inter alia* to identify locations for opening new fair price shops in the identified blocks; to increased accessibility and to ensure reach of sufficient allocations from out of their overall allocations. The programme is receiving good response from State Governments/UT Administration. It is also incorrect to say that a disproportionately large number of fair price shops are locar ted in the urban areas. In fact about 75 per cent of the fair price shops are in the rural aread.

Inclusion of Goods and services' under Consumer Protection Act

400. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to stat"-

(a) whethe it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to bring all goods and services including the Health